

64 K EPROMS AVAILABLE BY MID-YEAR: 64 K EPROMs (erasable programmable read-only memory), organized as 8 K by 8 bytes, are currently being sampled by Motorola customers. Production quantities are expected to be shipped by the end of June. Motorola has put the 64 K EPROM in a 24-pin package by multiplexing the program supply and chip-enable signals on the same pin. Intel and Texas Instruments are believed to be using 28-pin packages for their 64 K EPROMs.

Meanwhile the supply of 2708 EPROMs (1 K by 8 bits) has caught up to demand and prices are now in the \$6 range. The demand for 2716 EPROMs (2 K by 8 bits) is still very strong, and hence the devices are selling in the \$20 to \$24 range.

TI is currently the largest manufacturer of EPROMs with about 38% of sales. Intel is second with 29%, Fujitsu and Hitachi share third place with 8% each.

RANDOM RUMORS: At least one printer manufacturer will soon introduce a high-density, dot-matrix printer similar to the Sanders Technology Media 12/7 printer (see BYTE News, February 1979). It will sell for less than \$2000 in original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) quantities and it will include a sheet feeder. Furthermore, they are promising a printing speed of 400 characters per second (cps) in a single-dot-density mode and 150 cps in a word processing mode. Like the Sanders Technology printer, the word processing mode will use overlapping dots to produce fully formed characters. . . . It is rumored that Intel will start sampling a 16 K static programmable memory in the third or fourth quarter of this year. . . . Sinclair Radionics, of Great Britain, may soon start sampling its flat cathode-ray tubes (CRTs). The Sinclair CRT has an electron gun that is parallel to the screen. . . . Disk drive designers are starting to talk about the 20 megabyte floppy disk and 200 megabyte 8-inch Winchester disk. These units are in the product planning stages now at a number of manufacturers. . . . Rumor has it that Burroughs is about to introduce a 5 megabyte 8-inch floppy-disk drive.

RANDOM NEWS BITS: Shugart Associates' SA450 5¼-inch Minifloppy™ with 500 K byte capacity may finally get into full production by late summer. Shugart experienced problems with its previous head designs which had a high incidence of media scoring. Shugart will use a new head design developed by and licensed from Tandon Magnetics Corporation. The design employs a fixed "button" head on one side of the disk and a gimbal head on a swing arm on the other side. The original Shugart design used two gimbal heads. Shugart hopes to be producing at least 2000 drives per month by late summer. . . . Dataland of Denmark has introduced a computer system to convert a composer's music into a printed score. A special piano keyboard is used to "play in" the voices in the score. The computer processes the input, and sends output to a digital plotter that creates the finished score ready for printing. . . . Intel is now producing 8 MHz 8086 16-bit microprocessors. The previous top speed was 5 MHz. . . . The Department of Defense (DOD) predicts that software-preparation costs will increase from the present \$40 per line to \$65 per line by 1984. Thus software preparation will be 8% of the total US defense budget—rising from \$6.6 billion in 1979 to \$10.5 billion in 1984. . . . Texas Instruments has introduced an alphanumeric display-driver integrated circuit (AC5947) that accepts ASCII character input and drives an 18-segment display Motorola has introduced opto-isolators with 7.5 kV isolation ratings Castle Toy Company is selling a "Superstar Guitar" with a built-in microprocessor. . . . William A Davis, Castro Valley, California, has announced a navigational computer that calculates longitude and latitude positions even if the navigator has no idea where he is. It also can calculate distances between any two points on earth and gives true bearing between them. It is accurate to 1/10th of a nautical mile.

MAIL: I receive a large number of letters each month, as result of this column. If you write to me and wish a response, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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